

SOMERSET TEAM MANAGERS REPORT 2011

The first of the year's Inter-County competitions was back in January in Bicton, which hosted the South West XC Championships. Leading runners for the county were Laura Parker (Wells) who romped away with the women's title Elliot Haines (Wells) and Luke Scott (Taunton) who virtually tied for 4th and 5th places in the mens event. In the age-group events the best performances came from Oliver Fox (Wells, 5th U15B); Emily Smith (Wells, 2nd U15G); Emily Glaisher (Yeovil, 3rd U15G); Holly Brown (Taunton, 7th U15G); Sam Somerville (Yeovil, 2nd U13B) and Archie Walton (Taunton, 4th U13B). Somerset took the U13B team title (with Mendip AC winning the club event); the U15G team (with Wells 1st club team). Wells won the women's club team title.

In the national inter-counties at Birmingham in March, Somerset athletes again pulled their weight in providing Avon & Somerset squad members and had 10 top fifty finishers. Highlight of the day was Naomi Taschimowitz' breakthrough run to clinch a fantastic bronze medal in the senior ladies race. It was unfortunate that the ladies failed to field a scoring team. Other leading runners were Ben Tickner (Wells, 8th SM); Joe Walton (Taunton, 23 U15B); Oliver Fox (33 U15B); Matt Dickenson (Wells, 40 U15B); Sam Somerville (21 U13B); Catherine Blew (Taunton, 11 U20W); Naomi Speake (Bristol & West, 40 U17W) and Emily Smith (18 U15G). The best of the squads were the U13B and U15B who both finished sixth, with the SM and U17W tenth.

On the track it was good to have Dave Cooke shouldering much of the work and leading the team management on the day. The county supported two events, the South West event at the beginning of the summer holidays, and the Southern U15/U20 event at the end of the summer holidays. In the South West event, Somerset repeated last years brilliant team performance by finishing second overall behind perpetual winners Devon, with the women second in a tight three-way battle with Dorset and Gloucester. Notable winners were Emily Bonnett (Yeovil, SW 400mH 63.15; 400m 59.21); Ronnie Wells (Taunton, U17M 100m 11.1); Lydia Lavallin (Mendip, U13G 800m 2:29.13); Matthew Cole (Yeovil, U17M 800m 2:04.4); James Tostevin (Yeovil, U15B 80mH 11.68); Holly Brown (Taunton, U15G 3000m 11:08.8); Emily Smith (Wells, U17W 3000m 10:53.2); Luke Scott (Taunton, SM 5000m 15:27.82); Aiofe Thorogood (Mendip, U20W 2000mS/C 7:32.25); Charlie Martin (Yeovil, U15B 1500m 4:28.3); Sam Leitch (Taunton, U17M PV 3.80); Alice Grosjean (Mendip, U20W SP 9.91; DT 33.00); Rebecca Klys (Taunton, SW TJ 10.28; HJ 1.51); Samuel Chinn (U13B Shot 8.16); Evie Grogan (Taunton, U20W HJ 1.66).

At the Southern Counties event, medallists were Elliott Scott (Taunton), 3rd in the U15B 400m with 54.62 and James Tostevin, 2nd in the U15B 80mH with 11.73w. Alice Grosjean finished 4th in the U20W DT with 34.42.

Many thanks to all the athletes, their coaches and parents; and to all those who helped look after the athletes at the various competitions.